

A MAGAZINE BLOWN UP

THE SHOCK FELT FOR MILES.

THIRTY THOUSAND CHARGES OF "REND-ROCK POWDER" EXPLODES AT ONCE ON JERSEY CITY HIGHS—GLASS BROKEN AND BUILDINGS SHAKEN EVEN IN THIS CITY—GENERAL ALARM CREATED—NO ONE SERIOUSLY INJURED—SUSPICIONS THAT THE PLACE OF THE EXPLOSION—SUSPICIONS THAT STRIKING LABORERS BLEW UP THE MAGAZINE.

The explosion on Saturday evening of a magazine on Jersey City Hights, which was stored with "rend-rock powder," a powerful explosive used for blasting in the new tunnel of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, tore the magazine to atoms, seriously damaged houses within a short distance, caused slight injuries to many buildings on the west side of this city, and occasioned great consternation and alarm for many miles around the scene of the disaster. Several persons received slight wounds, but no one was near enough to the magazine at the time of the explosion to be seriously hurt. It is believed by the contractor and others that the magazine was blown up by strikers who were incensed against their former employer. Some property-owners in the neighborhood disbelieve this, and declare that they will bring suits on account of their losses.

THE EXPLOSION AND ITS EFFECTS.

Bergen Hill, situated three miles directly west of the New York Post Office, and overlooking Jersey City and Hoboken, has been twice shaken to its base by terrible explosions of nitro-glycerine compounds. About nine years ago, an explosion occurred by which nine lives were lost. Nobody within a ten-mile circuit of Jersey City was awake at 10:45 Saturday evening when the explosion took place. It produced a great sensation and excitement, especially on the New Jersey side and the west water front of New York. The night was almost at full, obscured occasionally by light clouds. The theaters were not yet out, and a few people wandered along the streets. Suddenly a dense column of smoke and fire shot up from the hill, apparently to the zenith, and accompanied by a round ball of fire which cast a lurid light over the river. A tremendous concussion and resonance followed, which was not heard all at once, but came straggling along like the broadside of a frigate, intended to be instantaneous, or the heavy rumble of a sudden earthquake. The next moment a white cloud, floating toward New York from over the spot where the powder magazine of the tunnel contractors stood, was all that remained of the phenomenon as seen and heard in New York.

The people of Jersey City, West Hoboken, and the Hights recoiled from their houses in alarm. Those in the vicinity felt their houses tremble, and were showered with bits of glass and the falling plaster of the ceilings. Furniture was toppled over, and doors riven, and in some instances chimneys were thrown down. All the gaslights on the New Jersey side and on the terryboats, and on the West water front of New York, were extinguished. The light of the moon presented a scene of terror, which would have resulted from such a flash with succeeding darkness and fright. People waited, breathless, for a recurrence of the shock, but the returning calm and the quiet of the night were reassuring. A few families on Bergen Hill were in the street, and their shattered houses. People more remote inquired anxiously for the cause, and searched the air for indications of a conflagration. In a few minutes the alarm of fire was sounded from box 42, Palisade-ave., which was taken up by all the fire-hills in Jersey City, and the whistles of ferryboats and tugs. The fire-engines were driven to the avenue, and people acquainted with the tunnel and the magazine of blasting material conjectured the true source of the explosion and hastened to the spot.

The force of the explosion seemed to spend itself in an easterly and west line. Directly east, at a distance of two miles from Bergen Hill, on West-st., New York, and Christopher and Springs-st., window glass and sashes were blown out by the concussion, and a telegraph operator in the Western Union building is said to have been thrown from his chair. At the time of the explosion a car of the Union Hill horse railway line was on its way up on the elevator, five blocks distant. The horses and passengers were thrown down and the car shattered. C. E. Staples, a member of the New York Post Office, who was in a fine brick residence was a few rods away, was between his home and the brow of the hill when the explosion took place. He realized the situation, and ran to take shelter under his porch to escape falling missiles, but heard nothing fall. He thinks the "rend-rock" cartridges exploded at a great height in the air, which might possibly account for the prolongation of the noise of concussion.

Speculation as to the cause of the explosion was rife. Some ascribed it to spontaneous combustion. A former employee of the tunnel contractor was seen to be safe to be kept damp, and was allowed to remain dry for two weeks without exploding of themselves. He thought powder had exploded from this cause and fired the cartridges. The fact that 400 laborers in the tunnel had been on a strike and had threatened the contractors gave rise to the suspicion that one of them had caused the explosion. The statements of several policemen who had overheard the threats of strikers, and the actions of strikers after the explosion, strengthened this theory.

A BUSY SUNDAY AT THE EXHIBITION.

THE TURMOIL OF PREPARATION GAVE RIGHT ON THROUGH THE SABBATH—CONTENDING VIEWS AS TO KEEPING OPEN ON SUNDAY—THE GATHERING CROWDS.

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PHILADELPHIA, May 7.—The last Sunday at the Centennial Grounds before the day of opening was marked by more bustle and hard work than is usual even on week days. The Pennsylvania Railroad, starting up with 115 cars, exhibited on Sunday the terminal men in charge took them to their places rapidly in the different buildings. The cracking of thousands of hammers, the screeches of fifty of locomotives, the hurrying to and fro of officials big and little, the 106 keepers at their posts glancing at the tickets of the constant stream of guests, who kept the galleries in almost constant motion, gave evidence of the most active and busy day of the exhibition.

warped so that it will be necessary to replaster the entire wall and ceiling and to replace the plaster of the existing of four persons were uninjured. Alderman Stuenkel's house on the avenue was less damaged, and the repairs required were few. Almost every room, and a new window was blown out.

St. Augustin and his brother-in-law, M. Hammerbach, had just completed extensive repairs in their houses, and the losses range from \$4,000 downward. The large stained glass window, which was shattered in St. Michael's Cathedral on Ninth-st., and all of the basement windows were broken, while adjoining houses escaped by a large number of windows were broken in St. Francis Hospital on Hamilton-place, Jersey City, and most of the glass in St. Mary's Hospital, Hoboken, in this city, on the west side the shock was very severe. Two sashes were shattered and shaken from the windows of No. 234 West-st., and several panes of glass broken at No. 401 West-st. Windows were shattered at No. 94 Warren-st., Nos. 47 and 49 Harrison-st., 35 Desbrosses-st., 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765,